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## Oxford Long Way From Nigeria

Edna Whitfield Alexander

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### Recommended Citation

Alexander, Edna Whitfield, "Oxford Long Way From Nigeria" (1962). *Clippings*. 142.

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## OUR READERS' VIEW

PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME—KEEP LETTER

Oxford Long Way  
From Nigeria

Miss Antonina Canzoneri  
Baptist Hospital  
Eku via Sapele  
Nigeria  
West Africa

Dear Miss Canzoneri:

I have read your letter in THE BAPTIST RECORD of November 15th, 1962.

I wish to express my admiration for your devotion to your service on the missionary field. I am confident your dedication in this area demands of you, at times, sacrifice and, perhaps, hardship. I ask God's blessings upon you as you continue to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the natives of Nigeria.

I judge you are a Mississippian. Presuming this to be a fact, I am of the opinion that you have overlooked two things: first, that thousands of miles separate Nigeria from the campus of Ole Miss, and that human beings through the centuries have not all followed a common social pattern in every day living. Neither oversight need condemn those persons involved, it is simply that patterns of behavior in one part of the world vary noticeable from others. These distinctions, the products of ages, need not be the deciding factor as to whether we are, or are not, a child of God, or that our concern for the poor, hungry, naked and lost, is any less incumbent upon us. If an "open society" is acceptable in a certain area, well and good, but association of races by compulsion is not conducive to the creating of good will among peoples regardless of race. The privilege of choosing one's friends and associates is a God-given freedom — and need reflect in no way one's personal like or dislike for other individuals.

Unless someone personally provided you with an accurate account of the trouble at the University of Mississippi, it is quite possible that you, also, have received through the slanted press a warped coverage such as has been presented in the world at large. Sincere and loyal Mississippians are indignant over these false reports. It could be, however, that your main emphasis is on the sociological aspects and that other facts in the case are irrelevant to your thinking.

I would like to remind you of a fact in history. Christianity has survived in no nation where the white race has lost its identity through amalgamation with other races. There is no reason to believe that the same thing would not hold true in our country in a matter of generations if color bars are promiscuously dropped.

The cannibalistic behavior of some representatives to the United Nations from the continent of Africa, while exceptional incidents, I agree, plus knowledge of the organization in our midst of groups composed of members of

this same race who openly express hatred and threats toward white civilized Americans, are sufficient causes to make thinking southerners, in particular, determine to stand without reservation against the ideas and proposals of ideological "do-gooders".

The unhappy situation in Mississippi has not been brought about because of racial dislike between its own good negroes and white people. We have since 1817 lived together as a state. Respected friendships of white and colored have remained unbroken through generations. As races and as individuals, we have each contributed with pride and understanding to the developing of a way of life which until recent years has been tranquil and happy. Mississippi's present problems have not been created from within. The ground work was laid by infiltrators and agitators of both races who invaded our state and prepared fertile soil for the recent Ole Miss Incident.

This tragic happening forced upon us brought a cruel and arrogant Federal employees into our state. They used political pressure Mississippi and United States Constitutions. These individuals, under orders from Washington, completely disregarded law, used police state tactics, exhibiting incredible behavior on the part of armed unquestioned authority. All which has resulted in a breach of good will and confidence between the races in many instances and irreparable disdain for national leadership.

If it were not so tragic, it would be amusing to observe the ridiculous measures and the expenditures of millions, which the United States Department of Justice, hand in hand with a national organization who shares your views, have gone to gain their objective.

I suggest you come "home" and take a good, long look before you again pass judgment on Mississippi and its people, admonishing us to "act like Christians".

I could quote much scripture to prove Mississippi position. I have only to look about me to see the glorious handiwork of God — to observe how discriminating He is in all that He creates, from the red bird that nests at my window to his supreme creation man, who was made in His own image.

In God's wisdom he made races of men, a class or kind of individuals with common characteristics, interests, appearance and habits. To each he gave a different color of skin. He endowed us with pride and respect and the responsibility for keeping our race pure and undefiled. This Godly heritage has been abused and misused by weak and sinful men.

As a Christian woman I feel incumbent upon me the duty of being fair and just to all peoples, and the Divine order to deliver the message of the saving Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to all with whom I come in contact. This I can do and still help to maintain a way of life which is not contrary to God's law or will.

Your letter has come into the public eye at a most unfortunate time. We who love and admire Governor Ross Barnett feel you have done him a great disservice. His burden has been very heavy and presently, his future happiness is in jeopardy, subject to the order of the Federal Courts.

Your convictions and opinions which you are entirely free to express will serve well the opposition's propaganda mill. Nothing will please them more than to have a southern young lady espouse their cause while chastising her own kind for attempting to preserve all that is good, decent and sacred in Mississippi living.

I am in a position to detect from your letter that you know NOTHING of the background of the Ole Miss occurrence which had its beginning in the mid-thirties. It is regrettable that many well meaning workers on the mission fields are almost totally ignorant of Communism's diabolical role in the frightening possibility of the fall of this great nation.

Should you return to your country in the near future, I would feel it a privilege to help inform you of what is happening in an area that should be dear to your heart — your homeland.

Sincerely,  
Edna Whitfield Alexander  
(Mrs. Harry Artz  
Alexander)  
Grenada, Miss.